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that of cultivated and observing travellers in general. Indeed, her style is that of the *viva voce* narrative of a person of fine culture, mature understanding, elegant taste, and very moderate enthusiasm. She thus satisfies us the most fully in her descriptions of society and of artificial life; the least, in her sketches of Alpine and Italian scenery. But the charm of her work lies in her freedom of access, on terms of equality, to those higher circles of European and especially English society, of which we generally get only the far-off views of those who, "sovereigns" at home, are forced to be plebeians abroad, or the hardly nearer views of those who, by dint of impudence, through extorted introductions, push their way where they are not so much received as tolerated. We by no means admire this inaccessibleness of English aristocratic society; nor do we deem that society one whit the better, because it sees fit to plant around itself a hedge of thorn-bushes. But still it exists, and is of old, — a tradition, an institution, a social force; and we rejoice in the opportunity of inspecting it. Madame Le Vert was everywhere "received," and, while she has not, as we think, violated hospitality by too great license, she certainly exercises the broadest freedom consistent with good breeding in portraying persons, describing objects, relating incidents, and copying conversations. Her two European tours extended through all the portions of Europe usually visited by American travellers, and the narrative of the second commences with a residence of several weeks at Havana. From Havana she embarked for Cadiz, and in Spain she occupies a ground on which she has fewer predecessors and rivals than elsewhere, so that her chapters on the Spanish cities contain a very considerable amount of entirely fresh material.

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27. — *The Lives of the Chief Justices of England. From the Norman Conquest till the Death of Lord Tenterden.* By LORD CHIEF JUSTICE CAMPBELL, LL. D., F. R. S. E. Vol. III. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. 1857. 8vo. pp. 381.

LORD CAMPBELL has brought down this series of biographies to a period within the memory of the generation now upon the stage, Lord Tenterden's death having taken place in 1832. It is superfluous for us to repeat what has been already said in our pages of the author's admirable adaptation to his work, alike in the profound legal learning which enables him to do professional justice to his subjects, in the union of keen insight and kind appreciation by which he sees the whole of a character, and exhibits it without detraction, petulance, or malice, and in his conversance with parliamentary and general history, important sections of which are sometimes portions of his narrative. This volume contains the lives of Lords Kenyon, Ellenborough, and Tenterden.

Lord Kenyon presents an instance — unique as we suppose within the last hundred years — of the elevation to the highest judicial honors of a man who had neither birth, genius, address, nor education other than legal, to place him in the line of promotion. He acquired a smattering of Latin at a Welsh free grammar-school, but could not read even the Greek characters, knew nothing of the abstract sciences beyond the "rule of three," and "is said piously to have believed to his dying day that the sun goes round the earth once every twenty-four hours." At the age of fourteen he was articled to an attorney, and by dint of hard drudgery, diligent study of the law, and making his indomitable working capacity of value to those who knew at once how to use and to compensate him, he gradually rose to the very highest trusts, and did honor to the places he successively filled. To be sure, he never outgrew his primitive awkwardness in dress and manners, and cannot be said, except in the widest latitude of metaphor, to have *adorned* his ultimate station. On the Bench and in the House of Lords, he showed, whenever the subject in hand was broad enough, the exceeding narrowness of his general culture and knowledge, and adhered to not a few of the obsolete prejudices of an earlier generation. Yet his legal learning was profound and thorough; he was a man of religious integrity of purpose and character; and though his judicial career has left no enduring memorial in the literature of his profession, his decisions, where they involve no other element than pure law, are still regarded as sound and able.

Lord Tenterden also illustrates the freedom with which unpropped merit can make its way to legal and judicial honors in England. He was the son of a poor barber, and was educated by the charity of his father's customers, almost arrested, however, on the way to eminence by an appointment as a "singing boy" in the Canterbury Cathedral. This place was the summit of his ambition; that it was not his Ararat he owed to a husky voice which made him ineligible. He, unlike Lord Kenyon, was an accomplished scholar, a man of refined tastes, an eloquent advocate, and as well fitted to grace the condition as to discharge the duties of his office.